

## PATENT

**C. REMARKS****1. Summary of the Claims**

Claims 2-11, 13-20, and 22-32 are currently pending. Claims 7, 18, and 27 have been allowed and claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-17, 19-20, 22-26, and 28-29 currently stand rejected. Claims 4, 15, and 22-24 have been amended in this Response. Claims 30-32 have been added in this response. Claims 1, 12, and 21 were previously cancelled. No additional claims have been cancelled in this Response.

**2. Examiner Interview**

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner Interview between Applicants' undersigned attorney and the Examiner on February 25, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner suggested that the "wildcard" character matching had not been found in the prior art and an amendment that included such wildcard character matching would likely place the remaining claims in a condition for allowance.

**3. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance by the Examiner of claims 7, 18, and 27 over the prior art of record. Applicants have added three additional claims, 30, 31, and 32, which each depend on claims 7, 18, and 27, respectively, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 7, 18, and 27 are allowable.

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**4. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. In particular, these claims were shown as depending upon a claim that was previously cancelled. Applicants have amended these claims so that they depend upon a claim that is currently being presented. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 22 and 23 be withdrawn.

**5. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28, and 29 were rejected in the Second Non-Final Office Action (mailed December 16, 2003) as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,185,598 to Farber et al. (hereinafter "Farber") in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,044,399 to Elledge (hereinafter "Elledge"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The independent claims, 4, 15, and 24, have each been amended to include the limitation that "at least one of the network addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one address corresponding to the network address." As discussed during the Examiner interview, and as admitted in the Office Action, the prior art of record, including Farber and Elledge, does not teach or suggest, either alone or in combination with one another, using wildcard characters to identify corresponding network addresses. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4, 15, and 24 are in a condition of allowance over the art of record.

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Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8-11 each depend on claim 4 and, therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 4 is allowable. Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, and 19-23 each depend on claim 15 and, therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 15 is allowable. Claims 25, 26, 28, and 29 each depend on claim 24 and, therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 24 is allowable.


Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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